

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1, 5, 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naedler in view of Kostroun et al.

Claims 2-4, 6-9, 12-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

II. Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 3-10,12-16 are pending in the application. Claims previously indicated as withdrawn in a prior response are now pending.

Claim 1 has been amended to add the limitation of claim 2. Claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Claims 8, 12, 13 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 2 and 11 have been canceled without prejudice.

No new matter has been added with respect to the claim amendments. In view of the above amendments, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

III. Conclusion

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, and requests that the rejections and objections to the claims be withdrawn. A continuation application will be filed to further prosecute claims 1 and 11 prior to amendment.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, or believe that certain clarifications might more readily progress the present application to issuance, a telephone call to the undersigned Applicant's representative at 713-651-5423 is earnestly solicited.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2375, under Order No. HO-P02832US0 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Application No.: 10/657,886

Docket No.: HO-P02832US0

Dated: October 19, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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